

Indiana State Department of Health

HEALTH ALERT

**ISDH Long Term Care
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Special Health Alert:
- Salmonellosis Outbreak

Nationwide Salmonellosis Outbreak

From the Indiana Health Alert Network
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The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) is collaborating with the CDC, the FDA, and other agencies to investigate a nationwide outbreak of *Salmonella saintpaul* infections associated with consumption of certain raw tomatoes, including plum, Roma, and red round. Seven cases in Indiana have been confirmed. Currently, 145 cases of *Salmonella saintpaul* have been identified in 16 states, with illness onsets ranging from April 16 - May 27. This compares with three cases identified during the same time period in 2007. Cases continue to be identified.

Symptoms of salmonellosis include fever, abdominal cramps, diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting, which generally occur 6 - 72 hours after exposure and last about one week. Although most people recover without treatment, those who are very young, elderly, or have weakened immune systems may have more severe illness or suffer complications, such as dehydration or bloodstream infection. Health care providers are required to report cases of salmonellosis to local health departments within 72 hours of diagnosis. Laboratories are required to report positive salmonella results to the ISDH and submit *Salmonella* isolates to the ISDH Laboratories for further subtyping. Because of this ongoing outbreak, health care providers are encouraged to order stool testing of suspected salmonellosis cases and to report cases of salmonellosis to local health departments as soon as possible.

The FDA is advising consumers nationwide to limit tomato consumption to cherry tomatoes, grape tomatoes, tomatoes sold with the vine still attached, and tomatoes grown at home. Consumers should be aware that raw tomatoes are often used in the preparation of fresh salsa, guacamole, and many other dishes. On June 5, the FDA published a list of states, territories, and countries where tomatoes are grown and harvested that are not associated with this outbreak: Arkansas, California, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Belgium, Canada, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Israel, Netherlands, and Puerto Rico. The list is updated on the FDA web site as information becomes available.

For more information, visit the CDC web site at www.cdc.gov and the FDA web site at www.fda.gov.

If you have questions about this alert, please contact:

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